

Proceedings of the Dune Restoration Trust of New Zealand National Conference 2012

Taonga O Te Hiku O Te Ika Treasures of the far north

14-17 February 2012, Taipa, Northland

Hosted by Taipa Beach Improvement Society and CoastCare,
Taipa Area School and Northland Regional Council



Conference Sponsors

The Dune Restoration Trust of New Zealand would like to acknowledge and thank the following organisations who have sponsored the 2012 conference held at Taipa.



Thanks also to Quinovic Property Management who have partnered with the Dunes Trust to fund a post graduate study award for 2012. Quinovic is looking to support the Trust operations and projects in the longer term.



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Taonga O Te Hiku O Te Ika - Treasures of the far north

Conference Programme

- Day 1** Tuesday 14 Feb: Arrival and conference opening
- 9.30am** Bus pick up at Whangarei Airport
- 11.15am** Bus pick up at Bay of Islands Airport, Kerikeri
- 12.30pm** TAURANGA BAY – PICNIC LUNCH
- 1.00pm** View the dune restoration work undertaken by Tauranga Bay Community Association and the first stage of the Tauranga Bay Holiday Park dune restoration work.
- 3.00pm** Powhiri and official conference opening by Craig Brown (NRC Chairman)
- 3.45pm** REGISTRATION/AFTERNOON TEA
- 4.30pm** Introduction to the Dunes Trust – Who we are, what we do, meet the trustees.
Current Dunes Trust projects, including the back dune project
- 5.30pm** Free time – check into accommodation
- 6.30pm** BBQ DINNER – TAIPA BEACH IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY
- 7.30pm** Regional round-up - dune restoration projects happening around the country.
Please register interest if you would like to speak. Ten minutes max per group. All powerpoint presentations will need to be loaded prior to the session – see Michael Bergin for assistance.



Tauranga Bay

- Day 2** **Wednesday 15 Feb: Talks and workshops at Taipa**
- 8.30am** One day registrations/ look around displays
- 9.00am** Taipa dune restoration project – background on the project from Taipa Beach Improvement Society and CoastCare, and Taipa Area School.
- 10.00am** Guided walk outside to look at the dune restoration work. Explanation of the weed control trials – David Bergin.
- 11.00am** MORNING TEA.
- 11.30am** Toheroa session – speakers followed by questions/answer session
- Toheroa abundance and distribution at Ripiro and Te Oneroa a Tohe – James Williams, NIWA
 - Toheroa – history of collection and cultural significance – James Te Tuhi – Te Roopu Whakaoranga O Te Taha Moana
- 12.30pm** LUNCH
- 1.30pm** Interactive workshop sessions. Each participant attends four half hour workshops.
- Top ten Northland dune weeds – how to recognise and deal with them
 - Pingao weaving – learn about pingao weaving and make a pingao putiputi
 - User needs for a Coastal Dune Ecosystems Database
 - Northland dune plants – learn how to identify some of Northland’s key dune species
 - Dealing with animal pests on dunes and beaches
 - Collecting and sorting spinifex seed for propagation
- 4.00pm** AFTERNOON TEA
- 4.30pm** Rena: the volunteer experience. Pim De Monchy, Bay of Plenty Regional Council
- 5.00pm** Juken NZ – dunes in the forestry estate
- 5.30pm** Quinovic – working towards a sponsorship partnership with the Dunes Trust
- 5.45pm** Dunes Trust AGM
- 7.00pm** CONFERENCE DINNER
- After dinner speaker** Lisa Forrester, NRC Biodiversity Specialist – Dunes and dune lakes



- Day 3** **Thursday 16 February:** Bus tour up Te Oneroa a Tohe (90 Mile Beach) to Cape Reinga, with visits to sites of interest
- 7.30am** Leave Taipa (Breakfast rolls, fruit and juice will be provided to eat en route)
- 8.00am** View restoration work at Lake Ngatu and Lake Gem with Bushlands Trust
- 8.45am** Arrive Waipapakauri Ramp – view dune restoration work there
- 9.15am** Drive up Te Oneroa a Tohe (90 Mile Beach) to Te Paki Stream then up to Cape Reinga, with stops and commentary along the way, including Te Arai Reserve.
- 11.45am** Arrive at Cape Reinga. Guided walk around the area
- 12.30pm** **DRIVE TO TAPOTUPOTU BAY FOR LUNCH AND MAYBE A QUICK SWIM!**
- 2.45pm** Meet with members of Friends of Rarawa Beach CoastCare group. View what the group has achieved so far and learn what it aims to do.
- AFTERNOON TEA AT RARAWA CAMPGROUND.**
- 4.15pm** Visit Te Roopu Whakaoranga O Te Taha Moana's pingao nursery at Betsy's place.
- 6.30pm** Arrive back at Taipa.



- Day 4** **Friday 17 February:** Student presentations and final talks, awards, and conference closing
- 8.30am** Wai 262 Claim, preserving Merereina Uruamo (daughter of Saana Murray)
- 9.00am** Student presentations
- Renee Johansen - Marram grass and dune fungi: hunting for hidden change
 - Susanne Krejcek – The relationship between native and non native dune plants
- 9.30am** Rena response and preparedness for an oil spill in Northland – Peter Wiessing, Northland Regional Council Kaitaia Area Manager
- 10.00am** Coastal Lizards- Ben Barr, Limestone Island Ranger
- 10.30am** **MORNING TEA/COMPLETE EVALUATION FORMS**
- 11.00am** Final wrapping up/ Official conference close
- 11.45am** Buses leave for Airports/Whangarei
- 1.30pm** Drop off at Kerikeri airport (for 2.30pm flight to Auckland)
- 2.45pm** Drop off at Whangarei airport (for 3.20pm flight to Auckland)

Key-note Speakers

Dunes and dune lakes - Lisa Forrester, NRC Biodiversity Specialist

Coastal dunes are dynamic systems which change constantly. They are home to distinctive communities of plants and animals and many species rely on the movement of sand and water to disseminate them. In high rainfall areas like NZ sand holds a great deal of water and dune lakes form in hollows, between parallel dunes and as a result of blocked water courses. As the dunes age and stabilise these lakes may persist to form perched dune lakes whilst smaller shallower ones eventually infill to form wetlands with little open water.

Coastal dune lakes only occur in five places in the world and are regarded as globally imperilled because many are severely impacted by development and invasive weeds. We are lucky in Northland to have more than 400 of these coastal dune lakes spanning a full range of lake types including some of the most pristine lakes on the planet.

These lakes provide habitat for native waterfowl, fish, invertebrates and a surprising range of submerged and lake edge plants. However not all are in good health. Many have problems caused by increases in nutrient level, stock access, invasive weeds, lake use and development. Those ones in good or restorable condition that remain are rare treasures and it is important that we, as part of the global community, do all we can to look after them.

Toheroa abundance and distribution - James Williams, NIWA.

Toheroa (*Paphies ventricosa*) are large infaunal surf clams endemic to New Zealand, found only on particular exposed surf beaches with fine sand, residual moisture and abundant phytoplankton. They are an important Maori customary species, and also previously supported commercial and recreational fisheries. The once abundant and extensive populations of toheroa in regions of Northland, Wellington and Southland were subjected to intensive harvesting during the first half of the 20th century, and the majority of populations declined to low levels by about 1970. Despite the cessation of harvesting, some populations have failed to recover.

Historically, the largest populations of toheroa were found in west Northland, particularly at Ninety Mile (Te Oneroa a Tohe) and Dargaville (Ripiro) beaches. Surveys conducted in 2010 at Ninety Mile and 2011 at Dargaville beach revealed the status of the toheroa populations at the two beaches is markedly different. Few toheroa were found at Ninety Mile in 2010; the population has continued to decline over the last decade and appears to be at extremely low ebb. In contrast, high densities of toheroa were found at Dargaville in 2011, in relatively small but conspicuous beds. Toheroa density was higher in wetter beach areas, which were numerous in central and northern Dargaville, but uncommon at Ninety Mile. Minimal toheroa spawning stock at Ninety Mile suggests the few juveniles found probably originated from larvae produced by viable breeding densities elsewhere, such as those in beds at Dargaville.

Dargaville Beach is one of only two beaches in New Zealand which are known to currently hold reasonable levels of toheroa, the other being Oreti Beach near Invercargill; the two populations are unlikely to be well connected. Toheroa populations nationwide should be very carefully managed and conserved to ensure the putative remaining broodstock populations are protected. This is likely to require concerted efforts between multiple groups (e.g., iwi, public, industry, MAF, DoC, councils, research providers).

Rena, the volunteer experience – Pim De Monchy, Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Pim de Monchy will talk about the grounding of the cargo ship Rena off the coast of Tauranga in October last year. His role in the Maritime NZ team was as Volunteer Coordinator, so the presentation will focus on the challenges and opportunities of involving volunteers in the clean-up of oil and debris. He will also provide an overview of the environmental effects of the incident and what is being done about them.

Rena response and preparedness for an oil spill in Northland – Peter Wiessing, Northland Regional Council Kaitaia Area Manager

Peter will talk about the Rena response, including the assistance given by NRC staff. Peter will also outline measures in place to respond to an oil spill in Northland.

Wai 262 - Merereina Uruamo (daughter of Saana Murray)

Wai 262 was lodged with the Waitangi Tribunal on 9 October 1991 by six claimants on behalf of themselves and their iwi: Haana Murray (Ngāti Kurī), Hema Nui a Tawhaki Witana (Te Rarawa), Te Witi McMath (Ngāti Wai), Tama Poata (Ngāti Porou), Kataraina Rimene (Ngāti Kahungunu), and John Hippolite (Ngāti Koata).

The claim is about the place of Māori culture, identity and traditional knowledge in New Zealand's laws, and in government policies and practices. It concerns who controls Māori traditional knowledge, who controls artistic and cultural works such as haka and waiata, and who controls the environment that created Māori culture.

It also concerns the place in contemporary New Zealand life of core Māori cultural values such as the obligation of iwi and hapū to act as kaitiaki (cultural guardians) towards taonga (treasures) such as traditional knowledge, artistic and cultural works, important places, and flora and fauna that are significant to iwi or hapū identity.

Student Presentations

Marram grass and dune fungi: hunting for hidden change - Renee Johansen, University of Auckland and Landcare Research

Most healthy plants support a community of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi in their roots – these fungi being named after the structures (arbuscules) they form in plants. The fungi provide nutrients to their hosts, and possibly other benefits such as disease resistance, in exchange for food. The fungi which form this association can't survive without a host plant and some hosts cannot survive without these fungi. There is evidence fungal communities accompany their host plants to new locations. They are likely to be important in dunes as these are stressful, low nutrient environments. However the nature of the interaction between plants and fungi is different between different species – pairs, with some species of fungi benefitting some plants more than others. This talk will briefly discuss arbuscular mycorrhizae, consider them in the context of restoration, and introduce my PhD topic. I will be looking at whether marram grass changes arbuscular mycorrhizal fungal communities when it invades dunes and whether these changes are likely to have a negative impact on native plants. This work will provide the first look at these fungi in New Zealand and suggest whether action might be needed to restore their diversity following marram invasion.

Do exotic plants act as facilitators or competitors in the restoration of native plant communities in stressful environments? - Susanne Krejcek, Victoria University of Wellington.

Substantial areas of sand dunes in New Zealand are dominated by the exotic sand binder marram grass. In many instances marram is invading and competing with indigenous plant communities in high value and high profile areas. Our dune restoration project aims to research the best fauna friendly way to restore marram dunes to spinifex dunes without substantial loss of ground cover, as well as investigating how competitive interactions between marram and spinifex change at different locations from the fore to back dune.

The 2475 spinifex plants that were planted at Tapuarau and Whitiāu (around Wanganui) in three different treatments (bare sand, live marram, dead sprayed marram and one control per treatment) will benefit the high value sites directly. The results are anticipated to contribute best-practice guidelines for dune restoration and management focussing on providing practical options for increasing native biodiversity on our dunes and build the foundation for future research.

Workshop Sessions

These will be interactive, small group workshops, each led by an expert on the topic. Each session will last for 30 minutes.

Please register for the workshops you would like to do by lunchtime on Wednesday.

Participants can choose four workshops from the following:

Northland coastal dune native plants – Lisa Forester, NRC Biodiversity Specialist

The dune plant workshop will include 'hands on' identification of some of the native plants found on Northland's dunes including both common and rare species.

Spinifex seed collection and sorting – Mark Dean and David Bergin, Dune Restoration Trust of New Zealand

Learn how to collect and sort spinifex seed for propagation for dune restoration projects.

Pingao weaving – Betsy Young, Te Roopu Whakaoranga O Te Taha Moana

Learn about weaving with pingao including an overview on harvesting and preparation.

Make a pingao putiputi to take home!

Northland coastal weeds - Sara Brill, NRC Biosecurity Officer

Weeds workshop includes 'hands on' identification of some common weeds on dunes. The workshop will also clarify the differences between invasive pampas and native toetoe.

Control options and methods for common dune weeds will be discussed. Handouts will be provided.

Controlling animal pests found on beaches and dunes –Kane McElrea, NRC Biosecurity Officer - Animal/Plants

This practical workshop will cover identification and control methods for the most common animal pests which threaten shore-birds and dune restoration project.

Coastal Ecosystems Database Workshop – Tim Park, Dune Restoration Trust of New Zealand

How could we store and look after the data and information we have about coastal dune ecosystems and make it useful and accessible to those who need it most?

The Dunes Trust has been funded by the Department of Conservation through their Terrestrial and Freshwater Biodiversity Information Systems programme (TFBIS) to investigate developing a database that would hold publications and information about coastal dune ecosystems – such as beach monitoring data, species information, restoration publications, existing scientific publications etc.

Over the next few months the Trust will be sending out an electronic survey to Coastcare members, Council and DOC and other agency staff around the country, interviewing people who run existing databases (such as the Landcare Research and Council databases), assessing the range of existing coastal ecosystem publications that could be included and investigating the privacy and copyright obligations existing around this information.

Our task during this workshop is to brain storm what types of information people involved in dune restoration would like to have in a collective database, what information we already have, what data already exist, and how they would most likely access this information. We are also interested in having a discussion how we can help store information that is being (or could be) collected by communities and agencies restoring dunes.

Dunes Restoration Trust of New Zealand Projects – An Overview

Developing a Coastal Dune Ecosystems Database

The Dunes Trust has been funded to undertake a scoping project to investigate the end-user needs, design and development options for a coastal dune ecosystems database. We will be running a survey, interviews, and small workshops for this project and seek the involvement of any individual or organisation dealing with coastal dune ecosystems – Coastcare members, agency staff, students, etc.

A range of ways to be involved in this project will be provided on the Dunes Trust website over the next few months www.dunestrust.org.nz or you can contact info@dunestrust.org.nz directly for more information. This project is funded by the Terrestrial and Freshwater Biodiversity Information System (TFBIS) Programme through the Department of Conservation.

Climate Change project

A project funded by the Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable Management Fund "Empowering Coastal Communities to Adapt to Climate Change" was completed by the Dunes Trust over the last year on time and within budget. This was a major commitment for the Dunes Trust over the last 3-years involving several components aimed at raising the awareness of coastal communities and managing agencies to the potential effects of Climate Change along our coastline and providing practical guidelines for restoration and management of our coastal dunes.

Climate change effects, including sea level rise, have the potential to considerably exacerbate hazard risk to coastal communities including more frequent and more serious flooding of low-lying coastal margins by extreme tides, storm surge and wave effects. Dune vegetation plays an important role in natural beach and dune dynamics and in beach and dune values. In particular, natural dune repair after storms is *critically dependent* on the presence of appropriate sand trapping vegetation on the seaward face of the dune. In New Zealand, the key native sand binding species on the seaward dune face are spinifex and pingao.

The project included the following highlights:

- Excellent attendance at workshops held nationwide with representatives from key coastal management agencies and community-based Coast Care groups;
- Production of a Technical Handbook folder on restoration of coastal sand dunes using native plants;
- Setting up of 2 coastal databases – Coast Care groups and coastal references; and
- Regular updates of the project outputs and deliverables via the Dunes Trust Newsletter, the media, local Coast Care newsletters and trade journal articles.

Workshops

Over the 3 years of the project workshops were held from Northland to Southland in collaboration with local councils and community Coast Care groups. Up to 5 Trustees presented at each workshop focussing on dune form and function, native coastal vegetation, restoration and management, and the role of Coast Care groups and agencies in managing dunes in the face of expected impacts of Climate Change. Local speakers from hosting councils and the community also presented at each workshop. Workshops were well attended and included the following locations:

1. Baylys Beach, Northland
2. Piha Beach, west Auckland
3. Waitakere City, Auckland
4. Port Waikato, west coast North Island
5. Mount Maunganui, Bay of Plenty
6. Ohope Beach, Bay of Plenty
7. Oakura Beach, Taranaki
8. Otaki Beach, Kapiti Coast
9. Wellington city
10. Tahunanui Beach, Nelson
11. Christchurch city
12. Brighton Beach, Christchurch
13. Caroline Bay, Timaru
14. Long Beach, Dunedin
15. Otatara and Oreti Beach, Invercargill

Most workshops included field trips to nearby beaches where coastal management issues were highlighted and where local Coast Care groups were undertaking restoration programmes. At each workshop, a comprehensive handout focussing on Climate Change and management of coastal sand dunes was provided along with numerous Dune Trust publications and local Coast Care and agency information. Feedback from the well-attended workshops was overwhelmingly enthusiastic.

Dune Trust Technical Handbook

As part of the project, the Dunes Trust initiated a Technical Handbook on the *Restoration and Management of our Coastal Dunes – Practical Guide for Coastal Communities Adapting to Climate Change*. The Handbook covers a wide range of topics from providing information on how dunes work and the ecology of our native coastal plants to providing practical guidelines on restoration and management of dunes in New Zealand.

This Dunes Trust Technical Handbook is a “living manual” that will be added to and updated as new information and resources permit. Information on latest publications for the Handbook, including updates, will be posted on the Dunes Trust website www.dunestrust.org.nz as soon as they are available.

CoastCare Groups in NZ

Throughout New Zealand many regions now have community-based Coast Care groups that are focused on the restoration of their local coast, whether it be a remnant foredune fringe, a wider sand dune system, or those including estuaries, wetlands and harbours. Supported by the local councils and often a dedicated city, district or regional council CoastCare coordinator, they are generally made of a group of fun-loving souls that are more than happy to get their hands dirty for a couple of hours once or twice a month down at their local beach in a working be planting natives or weeding.

The Dunes Trust, as part of the “Empowering Coastal Communities to Adapt to Climate Change” project has developed a database of Coast Care groups throughout New Zealand to help those interested in becoming part of these initiatives. We have provided regional maps showing the local groups and also listed the local CoastCare coordinators or

equivalent in that region to allow interested people to get in touch for further information on the groups or even join up.

Coastal Reference Database

As part of the Dunes Trusts Sustainable Management Project a Coastal Reference Database has been set up to help researchers and enthusiasts search one central source for published and unpublished articles, books, newspaper articles, academic papers, websites and plenty more documents focusing on sand dunes and all about them.

We have collated the references for numerous documents from many sources including local and central government agencies, industry groups and private collections. We are continually on the lookout for further material to add to the Coastal Reference Database. If you have a document or know of someone with a possible document on sand dunes or a particular aspect of the coast please contact us.

The Coastal Reference Database document can be downloaded from the Dunes Trust website www.dunestrust.org.nz.

Adapting Productive Coastal Landuse to Climate Change

A scoping study funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's Sustainable Farming Fund and the Dunes Trust was completed during the year summarising key existing and potential Climate Change issues for farming and production forestry land uses adjacent to coastal dunelands and estuarine wetlands.

The study aimed to highlight the various opportunities to better integrate and sustain productive land uses with the involvement of both forestry managers and pastoral farmers along our coast. This includes better integration of production and natural coastal values in the face of the effects of climate change, including sea-level rise. Some excellent case studies of good productive landuse practice on the coast were identified.

Coastal lowlands in most regions throughout NZ are among our most intensively farmed and forested lands, often integrated with rural service communities that are experiencing shrinking populations and associated issues with maintaining schools and other services. Productive landscapes in these coastal margins often interface with critical coastal ecosystems such as coastal and estuarine wetlands, coastal dunelands, and coastal lowland forests. At present, economic pressures often result in the productive land uses encroaching significantly on the coastal ecosystems and coming into increasing conflict with environmental values.

There is a critical need to develop adaptation strategies that enable both productive land uses (and associated communities) and critical ecosystems to be better integrated and sustained in coastal margin environments, and to build resilience that will enable the land uses to adjust with the projected effects of climate change. This scoping study focussed on working with landowners interfacing with coastal dunelands and coastal wetlands to clarify the various related issues, particularly from the land user perspective; and to identify areas of best existing practice and other opportunities to enable productive use along our coasts to better integrate with critical coastal systems; particularly opportunities that help build resilience to cope with the effects of climate change. In collaboration with managers and owner of coastal productive land, both pastoral farming and exotic forestry, the Dunes Trust will be developing a larger project to further develop the findings from this scoping study.

For further information on this project and to become involved in development of the next stage of this work, please contact Dune Trust Trustees Jim Dahm of Eco Nomos

Restoration of indigenous biodiversity on coastal backdunes

New 3-year project

The Environment Minister Nick Smith announced on 5th June, World Environment Day, that a grant from the Government's Community Environment Fund (CEF) of \$300,000 will go to the Dune Restoration Trust of New Zealand to restore indigenous biodiversity in coastal environments throughout the country.

To date, dune restoration work has focused primarily on restoration of native sandbinders on the most seaward dune face critical to natural dune form and function. However, many community groups are now also moving into restoration of indigenous biodiversity in backdune areas and facing considerable challenges. These areas are very complex due to greater species and community diversity, a range of sub-environments, and serious problems with invasive exotic vegetation, grazing animal pests, and human pressure.

Objectives

The purpose of this project is to enhance the capacity of local communities and councils to undertake restoration of indigenous biodiversity in coastal backdune environments through extensive review of existing knowledge and experience, setting up demonstration areas and monitoring sites, and providing practical guidelines for coastal groups, iwi, managing agencies and the wider community.

Locations

The project will run over three years and involve work in at least seven regions around NZ including Northland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Wellington, Tasman, Canterbury, and Otago. It will therefore cover a wide range of dune environments and climatic settings as well as backdune management issues. The review work, the monitoring sites, the demonstration plots and the field based workshops are likely to collectively involve work at over 50 coastal sites around New Zealand.

Project partners

Project partners include local authorities and Coast Care groups, iwi, and trusts who are providing both direct and indirect support to this project. To date these include:

- Northland Regional Council;
- Environment Waikato;
- Bay of Plenty Regional Council;
- Department of Conservation;
- New Plymouth District Council;
- Living Legends;
- Taranaki Regional Council;
- Greater Wellington Regional Council;
- Tasman District Council;
- Te Kohaka o Tuhaitura Trust, Canterbury;
- Timaru District Council;
- Dunedin City Council.

Other councils and interest groups have also indicated a willingness to be involved in the project.

Support from project partners includes:

- Assistance with determining representative backdune sites and facilitating local community involvement
- Provision of funding for supply of plants, contractors for weed control, site preparation, planting and maintenance, and supply of materials
- Providing direct funding for project expenses related to running field-based workshops, time and resources for Project to undertake monitoring and information gathering.
- Funding of technology transfer outputs based on information from the project such as interpretive signage, production of technical articles and factsheets, web-based outputs.
- Considerable in-kind support for staff time in locating sites, liaising with communities, promoting project aims, activities and outputs locally in each region.

Project activities

The project involves:

- Reviewing current knowledge and field-based experience in backdune indigenous biodiversity and restoration at up to 50 sites nationwide over the next 3 years;
- Establishing with communities and agencies regional demonstration areas of restored backdunes using local native plant species;
- Working with local agencies and Coast Care groups in setting up community-based monitoring systems for evaluating the performance of their backdune restoration programmes; and
- Providing practical guidelines for coastal groups, iwi, managing agencies and the wider community on the importance and techniques for restoring indigenous biodiversity on our backdunes.

Progress to date

In the first 6 months 3 milestones have been completed in collaboration with project partners.

This has included:

- Discussion with project partners and community groups is underway practical methods for monitoring backdune restoration programmes that can be undertaken by local communities. Community monitoring is already underway at Motiti Reserve (Papamoa) and the Maketu Spit. Initial investigation has identified the need for several levels of monitoring comprising user-friendly methods for local communities to monitor and learn from their restoration initiatives.
- Several sites in six regions have been inspected to date to review past and current backdune restoration activities including Northland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Wairarapa, Taranaki/New Plymouth and Tasman/Marlborough.
- Community monitoring sites and field-based workshops have been held in collaboration with:
 - Maketu Ongatoro Wetlands Group, Bay of Plenty
 - Waitohu Coast Care group, Wellington
- Demonstration areas have been set up in two regions involving planting of several thousand plants at several beaches in collaboration with partner agencies and community groups:
 - Waikato - Cooks Beach, Whangamata;
 - Bay of Plenty – Maketu Spit.

Further details on progress with this backdunes project are provided in Project Partner Newsletters published every 2 months and available on the Dunes Trust website

www.dunestrust.org.nz.

Project Team and contacts

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If you want to become involved in this backdune project or for further information, please contact members of the project team or the Dunes Trust:

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Other activities

Other projects and activities undertaken by the Dunes Trust over the last year has included:

- Production of a 2012 Calendar
- Summer and winter editions of the Dunes Trust Newsletter
- Tertiary student supervision
- Liaison with our sponsor Quinovic
- Answering numerous queries and providing on-site advice
- Dissemination of dunes bulletins and other Dunes Trust material
- Maintaining and upgrading the Dunes Trust website
- Organising the annual conference and Annual General Meeting
- Several Dunes Trust Board and Management Committee Meetings

List of participants as of 12 February 2012

Name	Affiliation	Email address
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